

impact on so many people throughout his years.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Dr. Peter McDonald in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to the States of Washington and Indiana. May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know he is with Peter.●

CONGRATULATING OWENSBORO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SIXTH GRADE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Owensboro Catholic Elementary sixth grade Future Problem Solving Team of Owensboro, KY. The Future Problem Solving Team recently earned the State championship in their division, placing first out of about 50 teams. They went on to compete at the international conference in Colorado and placed 22nd out of 55 teams.

The Future Problem Solving Program is a nationally recognized, award-winning program that seeks to increase awareness for the future and encourage creativity in students of all ages.

Over 50,000 students participate in the competitive components associated with future problem solving and community problem solving. Of these, less than 3 percent earn an invitation to the prestigious international event.

I congratulate the Owensboro Catholic Elementary sixth grade Future Problem Solving Team for their achievement. The administrators, teachers, parents, and students of this team are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to all that the Future Problem Solving Team accomplishes in the future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHELDON, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. On June 23-25, the residents of Sheldon gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Sheldon is a small town located in the eastern part of North Dakota. Previously named Jenksville, E.E. Sheldon bought the land in June 1881 and renamed it after himself. On July 20 of that same year, a new post office was established with Karl E. Rudd as the first postmaster. The National Pacific Railroad arrived in Sheldon in 1882, and the village began to grow, becoming incorporated in 1884. Since the day of its founding, the community has been small but very active.

Shortly after its founding Sheldon established itself as a hotbed for amateur baseball, winning the state title in 1895. In addition, Lynn Bernard "Line Drive" Nelson, 1905-1955, born and raised in Sheldon, played major league baseball during the 1930's with the Chicago Cubs, the Philadelphia Athletics, and Detroit Tigers.

The community had a wonderful weekend celebration to commemorate its 125th anniversary. The celebration was highlighted by a full day of activities on Saturday, including a pancake breakfast, two parades, a tractor and pick-up pull, and a car show. The day was capped off by a street dance that night. In addition to those festivities, a quilt show and a room celebrating the history of the town were open all weekend. The celebration concluded on Sunday with an all-faiths service followed by a brunch.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Sheldon, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Sheldon and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Sheldon that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Sheldon has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLFAX, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 22, the residents of Colfax will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Colfax was founded in 1881 and was proudly named after former Vice President Schuyler Colfax, who had owned property in the area. In February 1881, Colfax's post office was established. Colfax became known as the "Fountain City" because of the numerous artesian wells that can be found in the community and the surrounding areas.

Today, Colfax remains a small, proud community. Each year, the community gathers together and has picnics in the park. During the summer, many of its residents can be found at the local pool, catching up with friends and family.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding, the residents of Colfax will gather on July 22. There will be an all-school reunion to allow former classmates to reunite with each other and a coffee social at the local church. The highlight of the celebration will be the parade, which will feature floats, horses, and this year's North Dakota nine-man football state champs—all of whom are residents of Colfax.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Colfax, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Colfax and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Colfax that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this

fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Colfax has a proud past and a bright future.●

HONORING MARIO KAVCIC

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask that the following proclamation be printed in the RECORD.

The proclamation follows:

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MARIO KAVCIC

Whereas Mr. Mario Kavcic began his radio career forty years ago in Cleveland Heights for a Slovenian interest radio program, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic conducted his first on-air interview in his native Slovenian with then Ohio State Representative and current United States Senator George Voinovich, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic moved to Cleveland to work with other ethnic language broadcast companies, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic's great success and popularity earned him a prestigious evening time slot for his program, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic created a program devoted to international affairs that aired on Saturday nights for ten consecutive years, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic moved his program to Nationality Broadcast Network—which reaches communities in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia—after National Ethnic Programming went through a format change, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic interviewed President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and Cleveland Mayors Michael White and Jane Campbell, to inform his listeners about current issues, and

Whereas Mr. Kavcic was awarded the prestigious Governor Award by former Ohio Governor John Gilligan, and

Now, therefore, I, Mike DeWine, United States Senator from the Great State of Ohio, would like to commend Mr. Mario Kavcic for his longtime and tireless efforts serving the Slovenian population in Cleveland and throughout Ohio. Mr. Kavcic's outstanding work to preserve and promote the rich heritage and culture of the Slovenian community is a shining example of the positive role the press can play in our society.

On this, the 18th Day of July, 2006.●

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the extraordinary men and women who work there to assist our Nation's veterans. Last year, the VA began a year-long celebration in order to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Department. As the agency that administers veterans' benefits, a well-funded VA is one way our Nation honors those who have served in the Armed Forces.

Veterans programs have a long and distinguished history stretching back before nationhood itself. During the conflict between the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony and the Pequot Indians in 1636, a law was approved mandating that disabled veterans would be supported by the colony. Over the course

of the next 300 years, a variety of programs designed to assist veterans were instituted by different administrative bodies. In 1930, all veterans programs were consolidated and placed under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration. Finally, in 1988, President Reagan signed legislation creating the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs is "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan,"—a quote from Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address. The Department has five core values: commitment, excellence, people, communication, and stewardship. By upholding these core values, the Department of Veterans Affairs seeks to fulfill its obligation to those who have served in defense of our Nation.

The men and women who work at the Department of Veterans Affairs constitute a group who are highly trained and deeply devoted to the goals of the organization. This is true across the board but in South Dakota particularly. The Black Hills Health Care System was designated a top performer in the Department's fiscal year 2005 Survey of Healthcare Experiences of Patients. Furthermore, the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center has a strong track record of top notch service. For example, Luella Onken, a local volunteer at the hospital, was the recipient of the 2006 First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard Spirit of Volunteerism Award. She volunteers 5 days a week at the medical center and has devoted 35,000 hours toward helping our veterans.

For 75 years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has done an exemplary job of providing quality health care, administering benefits, and overseeing military cemeteries for the men and women who have served our country. I am proud to recognize and commend the Department of Veterans Affairs. The dedicated service of the men and women who work at the VA is a testament to the Department's commitment to our veterans.●

CONGRATULATORY NOTE ON KAZAKH AMBASSADOR'S BIRTHDAY

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today, July 18th, 2006, Ambassador Kanat Saudabayev from Kazakhstan is congratulated on his 60th birthday and recognized for all of his work around the world as a diplomat, government official, and culture and arts leader.

In his work with Washington since December 2000, Ambassador Saudabayev has helped to build a strong relationship with the United States on many levels. In 2001, Kazakhstan's positive support after terrorist attacks on September 11 helped extend the U.S. partnership on important issues such as energy policy, arms proliferation, the environment, and terrorism. In the past year, he and

his country have helped to build positive economic and educational affiliations with Louisiana and also have graciously donated \$50,000 to two local schools for rebuilding after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Serving in many important leadership positions before now, Ambassador Saudabayev was born in the Almaty region in 1946 and is now married to Kullikhan and is privileged to have two sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren. He has served as the head of the Prime Minister's Office in 1999 and 2000. In the 1990s he was appointed to serve as Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He worked as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1994 for his state and signed for Kazakhstan in NATO's Partnership for Peace Agreement. In 1991, he served as Ambassador to Turkey, the last under Soviet order, and worked to create a new strong future for Kazakhstan in its international relations.

Before his diplomatic ventures, Ambassador Saudabayev had a passion for and held many positions in Kazakhstan's focus on culture. Starting as a theatrical producer, Ambassador Saudabayev acted as chairman of the State Committee of Culture, chairman of the State Film Committee, and Deputy Culture Minister.

Besides his devoted nature in working with the United States and his homeland, the Ambassador's most impressive past will lead the United States to not only recognize him for his past contribution to the world but most likely also for his efforts to come.

We wish him Happy Birthday on this celebratory year and occasion along with many years of health and good fortune in his future.●

TRIBUTE TO SHARON DALY

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, this month, Sharon Daly will retire from Catholic Charities USA. She has been a compassionate, committed advocate for the most vulnerable children and needy families for more than a decade. She has skillfully represented a nationwide faith-based network that serves people in every State, including West Virginia. For many years, Sharon and her grassroots network of service providers have provided information and valuable insights on the needs of children and families. I have gained facts and support on a wide range of issues, from adoption and foster care to childcare and welfare reform, thanks to Sharon Daly and Catholic Charities. She has been a clear, compelling voice for the needs of children and the poor. Her leadership has been inspiring, and her voice will be missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY BLOCKING PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS FROM LIBERIA THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13348 ON JULY 22, 2004—PM-54

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons and prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Liberia are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2006. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2005 (70 FR 41935).

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and his close associates, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons and prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Liberia.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 18, 2006.